WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A cryptographic apparatus comprising:

plaintext packet receiving means for receiving packet data transmitted and received between terminals;

fragmentation determination means for making a determination as to whether there is a need for fragmentation of the packet data by computing the packet length when the packet data is encrypted and by comparing the computed packet length with a predetermined packet length;

fragmentation means for dividing the packet data into a plurality of divided data groups if it is determined that there is a need for fragmentation of the packet data as a result of said determination, said fragmentation means setting the divided data groups in a plurality of divided data packets of a predetermined data structure capable of being reconstructed in a transmission destination terminal, said fragmentation means adding, to each divided data packet, control information for ensuring continuity between the divided data groups;

encryption means for separately encrypting the plurality of divided data packets to form a plurality of encrypted packets; and

encrypted packet transmitting means for transmitting the

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plurality of encrypted packets to the transmission destination terminal.

2. A cryptographic communication system in which packet data transmitted and received between terminals is encrypted by a transmitting-side cryptographic apparatus and is decrypted by a receiving-side decryption apparatus; said system comprising:

a cryptographic apparatus according to Claim 1;

a decryption apparatus which receives the plurality of encrypted packets transmitted from said cryptographic apparatus, separately decrypts each of the plurality of encrypted packets into the divided data packet, and transmits the plurality of divided data packets to a transmission destination terminal in the decryption order; and

a terminal which receives the plurality of divided data packets and reconstructs the divided data groups on the basis of the control information added to each divided data packet to obtain the packet data.